DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Eapen, those were wise and weighty words that you uttered on the subject of recruitment and, like all people who learn from the past and think of the future, you advocate that communal representation should be done away with entirely and that some other form of recruitment should be substituted. You have considered the question of a staff selection board. You point out the difficulties in the way. I gather you do not hold it as a practicable and a workable expedient. You advocate competitive examinations supplemented by some agency for making selections from the backward classes. How far that arrangement will be welcomed in the country is a doubtful matter. All that we can do at present is to await the development of that spirit of fairness and fair play of which I see indications already in the various departments. I shall consider your suggestion in all seriousness.

I do not know that there is so much avarice and lack of sympathy as you indicate in the Medical Department. I know of a few instances that came to my notice where medical officers have shown lack of sympathy, a tendency to pay more attention to the well-to-do than to the poor. Every such officer knows what will overtake him if he persists in that course and I hope before long you will find a general improvement.

186. Public service.

MR. K. N. MADHAVA KARTA (*Member, Shertallai taluk, Group II*) said that he was glad to find in the Dewan's address the announcement about the entertainment of women in some departments. The policy announced was a good one. But it was necessary to go the whole hog with it and to appoint women in all departments including probably even the Police Department. The member had received a mandate from some women to represent their cause before the Assembly and it was in accordance with this mandate that he was speaking on the subject.

Secondly, he referred to the Judicial Department and said that the public were for many reasons losing their faith in the highest judicial tribunal of the State. There was no consistency in the judgments of that tribunal. Principles and views changed almost from day to day. The disposal of suits was also very slow. The same lethargy existed in the lower courts. So far as these courts were concerned, promotions generally went by seniority. Efficiency and character were at a discount. In such a state of affairs judges and Munsiffs naturally became idle, and the public suffered.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Madhava Karta, I do not suppose you expect any reply from me on the subject of your representation in regard to the appointment of qualified women in all departments of the State. I feel that you have done your duty in making the representation.

Turning to the recruitment in the Judicial Department, the whole question is now under consideration and, I hope, before very long, to have revised rules upon the subject brought into force.

187. Reform of the administration.

MR. K. NARAYANA PANICKAR (*Member, Karthikapalli taluk*) said that the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly should be reconstituted on a statutory basis. Elections for the Assembly should be held once in three years. The franchise also should be lowered. In regard to the powers of the Assembly, the introduction, modification or abrogation of any law should be made only with its consent.

The member next dealt with the Agricultural Department and said that the department should devote better attention to the eradication of the cocoanut pests.

So far as the Revenue Department was concerned, the member proposed the enhancement of the pay of the pakuthi staff. In the matter of disposal of Sirkar lands, the member urged for the registry of these lands in the names of the poor and landless people in small blocks of 10 acres each.

The next subject dealt with by the member was the reform of the Education Department. The present system of education should be revised and the study of agriculture and industry should be made compulsory in all schools. The vernacular

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